NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



Agricultural Marketing Service Fruit and Vegetable Programs Market News Branch

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Wednesday, December 10, 2003

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2003 IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

ARKANSAS - Soybean, light amber, \$1.25

CALIFORNIA - Buckwheat, extra light amber, \$1.33-1.49

- Cotton, light amber, \$1.24-1.49 - - - amber, \$1.19-1.24

- Cotton/Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.10-1.15

- Mixed Flowers, extra light and light amber, \$1.15

Orange, white, \$1.50Sage, white, \$1.41-1.50

- Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.14-1.24

COLORADO - Alfalfa, amber, \$1.24-1.25

FLORIDA - Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.35* - - - cut comb, \$1.50*

- Orange Blossom, white, \$1.60* - - extra light amber, \$1.50*

- Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.40*

*All deliveries were from previous contracts...

GEORGIA - Floral Source Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25

IDAHO - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.39

- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.24-1.39 (small lot 94¢)

KANSAS - Clover, light amber, \$1.34 - - - amber, \$1.25

LOUISIANA - Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25

MICHIGAN - Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.35

MONTANA - Clover, white, \$1.52-1.54

- Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25

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- Alfalfa, light amber, $1.37
NEBRASKA
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NORTH DAKOTA - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.48

- Clover, white, \$1.35-1.50 - - - extra light amber, \$1.35- Sunflower, extra light amber, \$1.50 - - light amber, \$1.35

- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50

OREGON - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.34-1.49

- Raspberry, extra light amber, \$1.42

- Mint, amber, \$1.19

SOUTH DAKOTA - Clover, white, \$1.40-1.50 - - Melter, dark amber, 40\$

- Sunflower, extra light amber, \$1.48-1.50

- Sunflower, amber, \$1.30

- Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25

- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.19-1.24 - - - amber, \$1.14-1.19 UTAH

WASHINGTON - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.45 - - - light amber, \$1.18

- Fireweed, extra light amber, \$1.50

- Mint, light amber, 91¢

- Peppermint, light amber, 98¢ (small lot)

WISCONSIN - Clover, white, \$1.45-1.50

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

- Floral Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.49 ONTARIO

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound exdock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST...... ARGENTINA - Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50

ARGENTINA - Floral Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.35

BRAZIL - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.06 - 1.20 BULGARIA - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 1.37

MEXICO - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.37

MEXICO - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.14

TURKEY - Mixed flowers, light amber, \$1.31

WEST COAST...... CHINA - Wildflowers, extra light amber, \$1.02

VIETNAM - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.08

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT - (MD, PA, VA, WV) 000

Colonies have been winterized and/or moved to warmer locations in the south for the winter. After several weeks of above normal temperatures, more seasonable temperatures have blanketed the area. Local associations are preparing for winter annual meetings. Next report will be issued March, 2004.

CALIFORNIA 000

The month began with fall-like weather over the State with high humidity and precipitation which brought much needed relief to fire fighters in Southern California. On the 8th & 9th, a severe weather system moved into the northern half of the State bringing thunderstorms and rain, funnel clouds and cooler temperatures. Areas that were setting record-highs a few weeks ago were not reporting temperatures as much as 9-11 degrees below normal. Another round of storms moved in the middle of the month. This time they brought more strong thunderstorms to Southern California. On the 15th, over 5" of rain fell in a section of Los Angeles. Southern California had a few days of above normal temperatures with highs in the 80's around the 19th & 20th but by the 22nd the San Joaquin Valley was dropping to near freezing and Santa Barbara recorded 32 degrees on the 23rd. The month ended with additional storm systems that brought snow to the mountains and freezing temperatures to the central valley.

The wildfires continued into the first part of November but cooler temperatures, higher humidity and occasional showers aided in finally getting them put out.

The bees are reported to be in fairly good condition but mite infestations late in the summer weakened some colonies. Widespread feeding of syrup and patties was reported across the State. Bees are now sitting in holding yards until after the 1st of the year. Migratory beekeepers moved their bees into the State during November. Most of them were fed just before Thanksgiving. There are already concerns that there could be a shortage of bees to pollinate the almonds next year. Losses from mites and wildfires will likely cause the shortage but with honey prices being higher than usual, beekeepers could be looking for pollen and nectar sources rather than move them into almonds.

Beekeeping supply businesses reported excellent sales for November because beekeepers got more money for their honey this year. They are buying foundation, supers and new equipment. Small amounts of wax were occasionally traded for supplies.

Sales of packaged honey products varied from good to fair. Packers didn't purchase a lot of honey during November because they had stocked up earlier or are taking honey from previous commitments.

GEORGIA OOO

Colonies around the state were in generally good condition. Most beekeepers around the state fed sugar and/or corn syrup to their colonies to a greater extent than normal due to the poorer than normal honey flow this year. Colonies are nearing the bottom of the cycle of population reduction. There were no significant sources of pollen or nectar available as November ended. Weather during November was warmer than normal for most of the month but became more seasonal with cool days and cold nights as the month neared its end. Moisture levels around the state remained adequate.

IDAHO 000

Apiarists have been feeding the bees pollen and syrup and getting the hives ready to move to California. Some have been sent already, others will wait until December or January. The bees seem to be in fairly good condition, however, the hives are not being opened and they aren't flying around. Some of the hives are being moved to protective storage with controlled air circulation to protect them from the winter.

ILLINOIS 000

The fall honey flow was the worst in twelve seasons according to one beekeeper. Supplemental feeding activities were beekeepers main activity throughout the month.

Temperatures were above normal throughout the state. Some light rainfall and light snowfall was reported the last of the month. A killing, hard freeze the last of the month eliminated the remaining light supplies of goldenrod and aster.

Honey movement was reported good due to demand for local honey. Quality of honey offered was not as good a quality as normal years due to the dry conditions.

INDIANA OOO

Most beekeepers treated their colonies and moved them into winter yards. The fall honey crop was very light due to dry weather conditions in most of the state. Temperatures for the month were above seasonal normals. Most beekeepers fed colonies with candy boards and sugar water due to very little honey stores in the hives.

Demand for honey was reported good for locally collected honey. Bulk honey movement was slow due to limited stores in beekeepers hands.

MISSISSIPPI 000

Colonies around the state were in good condition. In the southern portion of the state, a few colonies were fed with corn syrup while most colonies continue to sustain themselves with stored honey. In the central portion of the state, some colonies were fed sugar syrup, while in the northern portion of the state colonies were generally sustaining themselves with previously stored honey. Throughout the state, populations of honeybees continued to decline. During the month there was only very limited availability of pollen from domestic flowers in the southern portion of the state. Otherwise there were no significant pollen or nectar sources available in the state. As the month ended, the weather featured cool days and cold nights with moisture levels adequate.

MONTANA OOO

The month began with record low temperatures in several locations across the state. Lows ranged from minus-10 in Great Falls to minus-22 in West Yellowstone. On the 11th, Glasgow finally rose above the freezing mark ending an 11-day run of temperatures below 32 degrees. It turned cold again and on the 23rd, many places reported temperatures as low as minus-20 degrees. Some rain and snow was recorded across the state but the greatest amount was only 1.92" which only helped topsoil conditions. At the end of the month, subsoil moisture was rated at 51% very short compared to 26% last year.

Bees spending the winter in Montana are packed away and won't be checked on because of the cold temperatures. Migratory beekeepers took their hives to California holding yards for the winter. They are reported to be in good condition as they were loaded on the trucks.

NORTH CAROLINA 000

The month of November has been fairly mild for the state of North Carolina, with unusually warm weather. This gave beekeepers that were behind a chance to catch up on medicating and feeding. There was a drastic drop in temperatures by the third week in November, however, and many areas had heavy frost. The fall honey flow was very low this year, causing a shortage in available honey supplies. Most honey for retail market is now in the stores, with no reserves. According to the NC Apiary Specialist, the hives are looking reasonably well at this point going into the winter months. Beekeepers are getting ready for next year with repairing equipment, checking for mites and supplemental feeding. Apiary Specialists have been checking for diseases and the hives seem to be in fairly good shape. Many of the beekeepers are getting ready for pollination contracts.

OREGON OOO

The month began with cold temperatures across the state. A few areas along the coast and in the Willamette Valley received significant precipitation but everywhere else remained essentially dry. Light snowfall was reported in the mountains. The cold temperatures delayed some fall planting. Temperatures warmed slightly into the mid-40's to low 50's during the day but continued to drop below freezing at night. Snow again fell in many areas of the state but only ended up being about an inch. The week ending the 24th, winter-like conditions were again reported with cold temperatures, heavy frost, rain and snow in the mountains. Thanksgiving weekend was fairly mild.

Bees are going into winter in good condition this year. Beekeepers that take their colonies to California for almond pollination in January now have then sitting in holding yards where they are stacked and wrapped with tar paper. Beekeeping association meetings were also held during November.

UTAH OOO

The bees are in pretty good shape. They have a fair supply of honey on them but those that haven't been sent to California will probably have to be fed when they get down there. They honey crop looks to be close to average.

WASHINGTON OOO

Below average temperatures were reported across the state the first 10 days of November and several weather systems brought rain, snow and the first killing frost of the fall. While Central and Eastern Washington are used to the cold temperatures, the west-side of the state rarely gets below freezing. From the third t the sixth, Seattle had record low temperatures of 30-31-30 degrees. A few days later, temperatures got even colder with nighttime lows on the west-side dropping into the low 20's and into the single digits in Central and Eastern Washington. In the southeast corner of the state, this is 10-15 degrees below normal. Conditions were mostly dry during this time with the majority of the rain falling in the mountains. In a complete turn-around, parts of southeastern Washington recorded record high temperatures of 60 and 57 on the 18th and 19th. Beneficial snow and rain fell in Eastern Washington with some areas reporting 3" or more. Seattle set a daily-record rainfall total on the 18th and from the 15-20th they accumulated 2.06". On the 19th, Spokane recorded wind gusts of 62 mph and a day later, set a daily-record for snowfall when they received over 8". Two additional storms hit Spokane bringing them another 12-16". Temperatures warmed again over the Thanksgiving holiday. On the 28th, Walla Walla reached 61 degrees. Precipitation accompanied the warm temperatures in Western Washington setting records of 6.03" along the coast.

WASHINGTON continued...

Despite the occasional cold temperatures in Western Washington, there were also days warm enough for the bees to get out for cleansing flights. They were also able to collect a little pollen and nectar from filbert trees and heather. Colonies were checked frequently and feed was added when necessary. Some migratory beekeepers hauled their last loads to California during November. Others that had their bees already sitting in winter holding yards went down before Thanksgiving to check on their bees and to add supplemental feed when needed.

WISCONSIN 000

Weather conditions most of the month were normal with normal snowfall in the northern section and very light snow in the southern section. The honeybees had numerous cleansing flights due to warming temperatures part of the month.

Beekeepers reported most beekeepers had been feeding sugar water or candy boards due to the low honey stores in their hives.

Commercial demand continued to be slow due to limited offerings. Retail demand continued to be good due holiday demand.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	SEPTE	MBER 2003	YEAR TO	DATE 2003
	QUANTIT	_	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilogram	s Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
			DOMESTIC	
COMB HONEY & HONEY				MERCHANDISE
Mexico	762	4,934	20,436	26,157
Guatemala			589	2,573
Panama			1,140	5,147
Cayman Islands			1,076	4,334
Barbados			863	3,689
Northern Antilles			3,301	11,641
Aruba	1,027	7,556	2,165	13,546
United Kingdom			816	3,000
Netherlands			1,009	3,665
France			1,181	4,515
Germany			1,824	5,507
Israel			3,103	10,000
Kuwait	60,556	82,555	242,184	403,093
Saudi Arabia	24,563	32,219	242,626	367,282
Arab Emirates			139,213	182,607
Malaysia			7,385	9,686
Singapore	19,958	26,179	19,958	26,179
Philippines	48,744	63,938	91,685	150,482
China	, 	, 	4,552	15,730
Korean Republic			118,092	157,900
Hong Kong	1,524	5,520	20,390	52,771
Taiwan	681	3,229	3,716	12,108

1,478,123

2,868,715

EXPORTS continued...

TOTAL

Japan	112,471	152,974	168,766	232,802
TOTAL	•	437,608	1,156,308	
		ICATED OR SPECIFIED		
Canada	34,404	69,689	452,607	958,296
Mexico			1,160	6,682
Costa Rica			2,994	11,484
Panama	590	2,573	2,360	10,292
Bermuda			1,654	7,128
Bahamas			7,088	28,806
Jamaica			2,268	8,799
Barbados			6,246	23,109
Northern Antilles	816	4,369	816	4,369
Aruba			3,030	11,812
Chile			1,723	8,966
Netherlands			7,947	23,624
Germany	2,433	7,871	23,470	55,969
Armenia			14,944	25,867
Israel	328	2,665	328	2,665
Singapore			13,202	25,800
Indonesia	19,057	53,742	100,949	257,953
Philippines			1,255	4,661
China	7,241	19,474	39,751	102,751
Korean Republic	22,644	97,317	37,169	133,873
Japan	1,500	6,920	69,820	121,331
Australia	·		10,880	28,000
TOTAL	89,013	264,620	799,461	1,853,625
	NOT ELSEWHERE IND	ICATED OR SPECIFIED		
Canada			24,813	64,607
Mexico			18,663	30,178
Costa Rica			18,600	31,620
Peru			20,100	34,170
Spain			186,002	360,840
Indonesia			37,200	37,200
China			1,172,745	2,310,100

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

	SEPTBMBER 20		2003	2003		
		CUSTOMS	C.I.F.		CUSTOMS	C.I.F.
	QUANTITY	VALUE	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE	VALUE
COUNTRY	kilograms	dollars	dollars	kilograms	dollars	dollars
NATURAL HONEY, I	NOT BACKAGE	D EOD DETAIL	I CALE WILLT	E		
Canada	2,070,141	6,759,286	6,815,909	7,635,571	25,362,070	25,550,254
Mexico	74,487	214,891	218,488	640,854	1,918,815	1,958,901
Peru	74,407	214,001	210,400	3,480	5,220	5,506
Chile				1,986,913	5,195,624	5,357,554
Brazil	20,448	41,702	43,692	1,056,141	2,648,722	2,779,518
Uruguay	20,440	71,702	75,032	545,788	1,552,799	1,584,570
	 57 776	122 204	120 207			
Argentina	57,776	133,204	139.397	3,524,677	8,858,669	9,219,650
United Kingdom	10.050	 E4 E4E	 50.700	10,106	30,238	31,335
Germany	18,850	51,545	52,780	36,850	87,905	90,580
Australia	20.400	404 700	400.007	680	2,742	3,021
Czech Republic	38,409	101,783	108,667	69,479	184,119	195,303
Hungary	18,000	52,197	53,982	162,000	414,614	429,264
Russia				348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine				52,728	79,509	88,725
Spain				304	2,073	2,120
Romania				105,818	272,252	286,186
Turkey				55,627	117,291	122,632
India	194,401	460,712	528,672	1,613,763	3,769,722	4,037,654
Pakistan	38,000	59,850	69,902	191,301	279,019	309,368
Vietnam				415,580	905,473	961,225
China, Mainland	801,560	1,061,676	1,167,170	3,708,215	5,534,626	5,946,348
Australia				19,868	58,956	59,371
New Zealand				800	4,347	4,600
TOTAL	3,332,072	8,936,846	9,198,659	21,836,891	57,287,823	59,025,990
NATURAL HONEY, I	NOT PACKAGE	D FOR RETAI	L SALE EXTR			=11.101
Canada				150,769	502,685	511,184
Mexico				399,120	1,129,373	1,158,698
Chile				502,614	1,377,015	1,425,273
Brazil				559,213	1,284,814	1,338,631
Uruguay	20,666	67,165	73,165	920,531	2,588,149	2,648,729
Argentina				583,866	1,400,908	1,462,938
Germany	1,182	6,899	6,968	1,182	6,899	6,968
Austria				460	3,507	3,574
Turkey				155,568	398,166	418,386
India	74,400	166,075	175,670	1,090,800	2,424,055	2,518,118
Pakistan				19,000	27,550	30,491
Vietnam	18,560	39,533	42,583	512,384	957,439	1,017,720
Indonesia	18,560	38,976	43,476	18,560	38,976	43,476
China	786,002	1,148,552	1,271,082	2,774,646	4,533,549	4,858,934
Australia				18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt				237,808	441,697	467,353
TOTAL	844,970	1,301,125	1,437,274	7,943,521	17,169,442	17,967,633

IMPORTS continued...

NATURAL HONEY, N	IOT PACKAGE	D FOR RETAIL	SALE LIGH	IT AMBER		
Canada	72,061	211,478	214,429	215,378	668,738	675,723
Mexico	152,618	372,417	381,094	2,869,211	7,516,275	7,714,314
Dom. Republic				898	2,640	2,736
Peru	19,650	41,400	43,244	765,294	1,553,041	1,625,795
Chile				1,965,089	5,066,343	5,236,885
Brazil	468,509	1,035,459	1,093,564	3,213,982	7,520,256	7,887,858
Uruguay	58,750	133,148	137,360	3,646,394	9,901,995	10,191,104
Argentina				223,791	490,765	512,702
Denmark				12,096	51,710	55,560
United Kingdom	118	3,314	3,628	118	3,314	3,628
France				1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany				133,956	439,227	512,310
Czech Republic				74,053	195,467	203,435
Hungary	7,800	32,298	32,798	25,800	84,495	86,780
Switzerland				571	4,215	4,216
Latvia				1,260	2,134	2,364
Ukraine	127,750	309,527	325,150	443,058	1,109,579	1,073,271
Moldova	55,550	105,423	111,423	164,040	336,142	350,927
Italy	516	7,570	7,694	2,729	12,803	13,439
Romania	92,280	211,523	223,166	507,127	1,206,418	1,264,044
Bulgaria	56,550	144,203	153,709	471,580	1,067,080	1,142,403
Turkey	56,700	161,550	170,100	1,322,445	3,193,469	3,365,554
India	312,380	505,538	546,124	1,342,394	2,685,810	2,869,123
Pakistan				38,636	59,994	62,300
Burma				56,250	69,075	75,017
Thailand	89,877	216,180	228,281	589,021	1,437,206	1,501,986
Vietnam	401,540	803,554	878,361	5,756,720	11,942,396	12,685,031
Malaysia	307,749	653,598	708,979	2,613,849	4,524,740	4,963,125
China	515,052	2,285,567	2,509,016	7,820,841	11,732,295	12,723,485
New Zealand	4,020	24,488	24,739	86,498	284,573	293,763
Egypt	19,195	37,618	40,969	23,415	40,568	44,265
Burkina				19,095	38,190	41,356
TOTAL	3,818,665	7,295,853	7,833,838	34,406,629	73,155,373	77,188,213

NATURAL HONEY,	, NOT PACKAGED	FOR RETAIL	SALE - NOT	ELSEWHERE SPE	CIFIED OR INDIC	ATED
Canada	37,858	67,412	67,701	133,792	288,945	293,454
Mexico	181,629	425,868	428,868	1,949,718	5,163,177	5,197,477
Dom. Republic				211,168	208m127	225,312
Colombia				19,656	35,970	37,970
Peru				2,320	3,480	3,670
Chile				95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	57,907	126,764	131,878	587,819	1.376.416	1,438,170
Uruguay				117m783	310,077	318,038
Argentina				11,958	36,939	38,645
United Kingdom	106	2,374	2,600	106	2,374	2,600
Netherlands				75,199	336,587	337,031
France				2,051	15,113	16,228
Austria				6,963	42,656	48,389
Switzerland				19,100	135,527	141,087
Russia				3,585	16,217	17,769

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IMPORTS	continued

36,000 3,675 9,360	6,482 42,472	6,573 44,172	187,180 5,400 33,584 38,049	336,078 23,364 50,818 169,047	63,090 359,736 23,971 54,489 176,927
, 			187,180 5,400	336,078 23,364	359,736 23,971
,	,	,	187,180	336,078	359,736
,	,	,	,	,	,
36,000	03,000	03,090	,	,	,
26 000	63.000	63 000	36.000	63.000	62 000
111,600	264,817	279,000	353,400	819,159	933,275
1,389	10,675	11,007	10,990	63,285	66,794
			,	,	40,675
			758	5,339	5,610
			5,119	14,489	15,906
			,	-,	7,248
			,	,	22,395
16,200	48,248	51,241	,	,	60,381
	 1,389	 1,389 10,675 111,600 264,817	 	6,283 4,860 5,119 758 758 11,389 10,675 11,007 10,990 111,600 264,817 279,000 353,400	6,283 20,895 4,860 6,846 5,119 14,489 758 5,339 14,963 37,800 1,389 10,675 11,007 10,990 63,285 111,600 264,817 279,000 353,400 819,159

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION